

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING-BOYS' DEPARTMENT.

## THE OPEN SYSTEM

A California Reformatory Where Prisoners Are "State Students."

SUCCESS OF ELASTIC METHODS

Trades Are Taught and Rewards Stimulate Good Conduct.

A MORAL SENSE STIRRED

Written for The Evening Star. A prison without bolts or bars. This is the California reformatory. It is not called a prison, nor does it look like one, nor are the inmates ever referred to as prisoners. They are simply students in the state school. This reformatory is at Whittier, a pleasant village founded by Quakers, about fifteen miles from Los Angeles. It is beautiful country, surrounded by gardens, orchards, and the magnificent coast range, its peaks whitened with snow in winter, walls the eastern horizon. The Whittier school Jates from 1891. Dr. Walter Lindley, a physician from Brooklyn, N. Y., who had given up a good practice to take its charge, was its first superintendent. He had made a study of eastern prisons and reformatories, but to him they were partial failures. Dr. Lindley has a heart as big as his adopted state. He believes with Victor Hugo that there is a spark of the divine in every man, if only it can be reached. His idea was to inculcate a sense of responsi blity and a proper ambition among those boys and girls who, in lack of proper home training, are a constant menace against the order and security of society. There are no models for the Whittier school. The only institution that might suggest it is the pr'son in Lepoglava, Hungary. Here the prisoners are graded in three classes. The first of their term they serve in cells, like those in Sing Sing. In the next class they work together in shops. On attaining the third grade they leave the prison and live in their own cottages outside the walls, where they have no guards other than the superintendents of the farms. There was no reformatory in California before the establishment of Whittier, but another on the same order has since been built at Ione.

Almost an Ideal Prison. Children are taken at the V.n. ..ler school from the ages of eight to eighteen, and may

the inmates from contamination. Tramps are never allowed to come near Whittier.
These men are perverts of the worst type, and not a few of the boys reach Whittier because at some time they have fallen under their influence. It is an offense punishable by imprisonment for any one to attempt to get an inmate away or to smuggle liquor or tobacco into the institution.

Many of the boys and a few of the girls are cigarette fiends. The officers are generally able to tell when the boys have succeeded in obtaining tobacco, for, as a result of smoking, they will show listlessness and carelessness in their work. These children are not absolute illiterates; only 6 per cent have never attended school; but the greatest number of them have attended school for only five years.

Buildings Are Needlessly High. In its situation the Whittier school could

hardly be improved upon. The building itself, however, is old-fashioned. It was con- ants are arrayed like army officers. The

are admirably neat and well kept, and the fireman has a relatively easy task because the fuel is oil, which has been "struck" in tween right and wrong, and those who and about Los Angeles. It needs but the turn of a screw to release a flow of oil under the boiler and there is a hot fire in an instant.

The industries are such as a fairly bright boy should be able to prosecute with a little direction from the shop superintendent. tle direction from the shop superintendent, and the boy goes into the world with a trade which, if he chooses to follow it, will leave no excuse for mischievous living afterward. Sloyd, which was afterward introduced into the manual training schools of the state, was first adopted here, although it is not continued at present, the lack of proper appropriations having hamweak or undeveloped, there must be an establishment, the world over, of such institutions as the Whittler school. pered progress at Whittier. Good work is done in the tailor shop, the carpenter shop, the printery, the shoemaking department, laundry, blacksmith's shop, bakery, kitchen and on the farm of 160 acres, with its stables, its cows, horses and hens, and in How He Came to Be Appointed by a the girls' department sewing and house-

work are taught. Conduct Improves Quickly. The improving tendencies that inhere in such surroundings as we find in Whittier are often of wonderful promptness in their action. One day a sheriff from one of the middle counties arrived at the school with a burly young offender, whom he had put in irons for safety's sake, for the boy weighed 200 pounds and was capable of mischief. The sheriff kept a shotgun ready to hand during the trip and he was amazed, on arriving at the school, to discover none of the usual measures for the prevention of escapes. He was in two minds whether he should leave his charge in an institution like that, and was in actual alarm for the safety of the school when the lad was freed from his irons and sent to bed in one of the dormitories. Two months later, being in that part of the state, the sheriff called at Whittier to learn whether his former prisoner had been committing any murders or burglaries in the neighborhood. Great was his astonishment when his villain opened the door for him. He had become one of the trusted inmates and was behaving quite as well as anybody.

Roys Make Good Soldiers. As was said, the boys are organized into military companies and are required to drill every day, the smallest of the boys being excused from long marches. Formerly guns were supplied, but these are not in use at present, hence the drill consists almost wholly of evolutions. The drill commander is an army man of majestic appearance, and he as well as his lieuten-



SITTING ROOM, COMPANY B COTTAGE-GIRL'S DEPARTMENT.

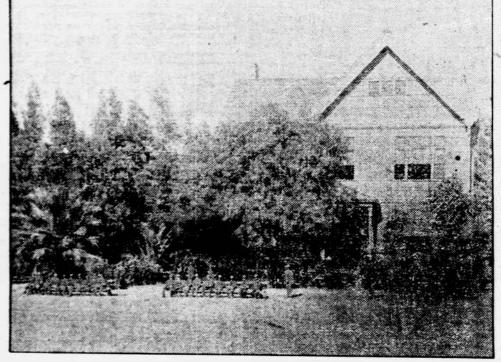
structed by a man who believed that a certain amount of architectural display was necessary in any public building. With all outdoors to spread in, he piled up his walls to a height of four stories, thereby imposing down the line, past the stars and roaring down the line, past the stars and roaring down the line, past the stars and strings that are fluttering in the breage All strings th ing on the little fellows the necessity of stripes that are fluttering in the breeze. All climbing a lot of needless stairs. There minor officers of the companies are cadets, be held until they are twenty-one. There are no cells, except two or three that are are no rules of the usual sort common in used only for refractory pupils, all the

as they are called, and eligibility to these offices, as well as the trust and respon- the largest waves in a storm probsibility imposed on those who are promoted to them, are stimulants to good conduct and diligence. Every summer the ter beyond the first one hundred fath-whole command goes into camp at Santa oms, if, indeed, they go so far, currents is reached by steamer from San Pedro, the port of Los Angeles. There they spend three weeks in drill, but with plenty of time for bathing, boating, games, athletics, foot ball and music. And the youngsters, far from being restrained, are encouraged in their sports, because it is found that when their vitality has due outlet they are in better health and spirits, more tractable and make better progress in their studies. It is especially desired that they shall play end of their day's work, because

they sleep better afterward.

Inmates Are Very Well Fed. Talking is forbidden during study and reformatory in character, but it is per- relieve its temper by a vicious snap? mitted in the playgrounds-imagine tag or base ball without talk—at meal times and in the evening. The well being of the inmates is likewise advanced by a liberal and ilar fashion; each, like the shark, to its varied diet, and the large orchards that sur- own detriment, for it illustrates the maxround the school provide a plenty of fruit for the tables without cost. There is a spe- tween shark and cable occurred 330 fathcial bill of fare for each day and the dietary includes bread, eggs, sausage, steak, stews, potatoes, sweet potatoes, mush, turnips, onions and other garden stuff; pie, cake, pudding, butter, oranges, lemons, the open ocean living creatures generally milk, and coffee, while on holidays there do not descend below a few hundred feet, are turkey and roast pig. Despite the rav-ages of several hundred active appetites dant in this upper layer—the home of the there is a surplus of fruit and garden sauce which is sold to the grocers.

It is possible for an inmate to earn a little money-more than he or she would be apt to earn outside, in addition to board and lodging. The surplus is perhaps not more than 75 cents a week, but even this is an incentive to industry and the money can be put into a bank, either to gain interest or to withdraw for approved expenditures, as occasion may demand. One boy when paroled \$30 to spend and several have had These dormitories are large and airy and \$10 and thereabout. There is an excellent



COTTAGE B-COMPANY OF SMALL BOYS.

penal institutions and the methods are elastic. The plan is to treat the child individ-ually; to free him as much as possible from victous surroundings and criminal sugges-Students of prisons declare that this is the closest approach to the ideal that | arate any one of them from his fellows for has so far been reached. It is certainly better than anything of the kind which has been elsewhere attempted in the world. In the older states the directors and keepers of prisons are an ineffective, ill-paid, political lot. The Whittier establishment is on another basis. It was believed that to make first-class citizens out of warped material one must have first-class directors and teachers. Colleges pay large salaries to teachers of boys who are nominally bright and good, yet there is a more urgent need of skilled direction for the mentally stunted

and morally unfortunate. The keynote of success is occupation, con-stant occupation, mental and physical Every lad acquires a common school education, has a military training and learns a trade. There is no question that thousands of these boys return to the world as well qualified to earn an honest livelihood as are the children of the well to do. There were over 100 graduates from this school in the army and navy in the Philippines alone at the time of the American occupation. There are no more walls or other protections than in any other school or college no guard is seen with a gun, there are no chains or gratings or any suggestions of a prison. The inmates are sent to Whittier until of age, but they may be paroled or discharged at any time, even in three weeks. There is an average of 300 boys weeks. There is an average of 300 boys and fifty girls here at a time, and the at-tempts at escape are but four or five a year. Physical restraints are seldom necessary There are watchmen in the dormitories, but they guard against fire and misconduct, rather than against escape. When a boy runs away and is caught his credits are taken away and he starts all over again. A boy who is rebellious or who en-dangers the discipline of the school may be locked up on bread and water for two o three days, but this is rarely done. The commoner punishment is to deprive him of certain privileges, or to make him walk a beat without speaking to any one. Dur-ing the entire year it may be necessary to whip about twenty-five of the boys. For onths at a time, however, no such pun ishment is administered. The whipping must be done in presence of the superin-

tendent, and eight or ten blows are enough. The girls are never whipped. They are locked up, or put on the guard line, when

youngsters being gathered into dormitories

at night, where they are watched by a man

who sits in a corner under a light and has the room under his eye, but who seldom

has occasion to address the boys or to sep-



BUILDING AND GROUNDS OF GIRL'S SCHOOL.

nust be done in presence of the superinendent, and eight or ten blows are enough.
The girls are never whipped. They are
ocked up, or put on the guard line, when
refractory.

Care to Avoid Contamination.

Everything possible is done to keep

the halls are wide, but the height of the
building needlessly adds to the peril from
fire. One of the separate houses, in which
were the dining rooms and certain other
apartments, was burned a while ago, and
the occupants of the place are put to some
present inconvenience as a result of the
lack of room. The engine rooms and shops

the halls are wide, but the height of the
building needlessly adds to the peril from
fire. One of the separate houses, in which
the whittier school has, without question,
begun a great reform. The day of punitive
treatment is passing. The dawn of a day
of justice has appeared. Not punishment,
eappecially for one who sins in ignorance, but
reform, is the duty of the state to itself and the halls are wide, but the height of the

vention will save society from the passions and devices of those who seek to do evil against it, and more and better schools, a completer watch on the potentially vicion and wiser labor laws will do much to abridge the improper liberties and tendencies of the criminal, while for such as are not yet criminal, but lack guidance and are week or underland the such as a such as

MANILA'S FIRE CHIEF.

Civil Service Commissioner. President Roosevelt discovered some days ago that the civil service commission had a standing that even outranked his prestige in the making of appointments not included under the civil service law. Mr. Procter, president of the commission, was at the same time given a surprise by finding that he was called upon to indorse an act of the President of the United States in order to make it satisfactory to all the parties concerned. All this came about through a cablegram recently received by the War Department from the president of the Philippine commission, asking that Mr. the Philippine commission, asking that Mr. Procter, president of the civil service commission, be requested to name a chief of the Manila fire department. Mr. Procter had no list of eligibles for the position of chief of a fire department, and the place not being under the civil service law he had no authority to hold an examination for it. He was only called upon to fill the for it. He was only called upon to fill the place because it was known that he was likely to have some one with the qualifications desired in mind and because of con-fidence in his readiness to fill the place

without partisan bias, and not because of any restriction of law. It happened that the President had within a day or two of the receipt of this cablegram had as his guest the chief of the fire department of one of the largest cities of the country, and one who was regarded as not only in the first rank of fire chiefs, but also as a bellever in and a consistent advocate of the merit system. Mr. Procter, knowing this, suggested to Mr. Roosevelt that no better one could be asked to name a fire chief for Manila, and the President consented to the writing of a letter requesting that the fire chief name a man for the place. In the course of a few days an answer came back o the President, who forwarded it to the War Department. But there was a hitch because there was a piece of red tape that had been left out of the transaction. The Secretary of War called on the President and told him the request for the naming of a fire chief that had come from the Philip-pines had specifically stated that the president of the civil service commission was to name him, and what had been done was irregular and would not do.
"But," expostulated President Roosevelt,

"I only acted for Mr. Procter-I was merely his intermediary in the transaction. He asked me to write the letter, and I But the Secretary of War insisted that

it would not do; the stamp of approval of Mr. Procter had been asked for, and the mmendation did not have it. Well, I'll ask Procter if he'll approve it," said the President, as a way out of the dilemma. Then he telephoned Mr. Proc-

"They will not take my recommendation," he explained to the civil service commissioner. "Now, if you will approve it it will be all right. I told them I was only acting as your intermediary, but that was not sufficient."

Mr. Procter, president of the civil service commission, forthwith wrote a letter in-dorsing what Mr. Roosevelt, President of the United States, had done, and the name of the fire chief of Manila was then certified for appointment.

"When you were advocating civil service reform twenty years ago did you think you were laying so firm a foundation for it that when you should become President it would be necessary to ask a civil service commissioner to indorse your recommendations for appointment?" the President was asked by a friend who learned of the incident. And the President smiled a smile of deep satisfaction.

Unexpected perils await submarine cables even in the depths of the ocean. Though ably do not appreciably disturb the water beyond the first one hundred fath-Catalina Island, a beautiful resort, which are sometimes strong enough to fray the cable against some submarine crag, and various living creatures will do it a mischief. Among them fishes have long been amining the piece a shark's tooth was found imbedded in the sheathing. As that consisted of the usual thick iron wires and their outer covering, the aggressor must have given a hard bite. The motive is not easily divined. Could the shark have mistaken the cable in the imperfect light for a new species of conger, or did it, which seems more likely, blunder against it at a work hours, as it is in schools that are not place where it did not touch bottom, and A swordfish will express its resentment against a vessel by driving the bayonet at

im, "Can't you leave it alone?" by losing the weapon of offense. The conflict beoms below the surface, a depth which for-merly was supposed to be almost lifeless. countiess fishes, mollusks, crustaces and n many places of crowds of tiny foraminifera and radiolaria, with a corresponding abundance of seaweeds.

But living creatures follow the ocean slopes downward to very great depths. Sponges, at least certain kinds, go far below the thousand-fathom line. A hydro-zoon two yards long was dredged up by the Challenger from 2,900 fathoms, and oc-casionally a coral or some near relation may be found at as great a depth. A well-known species of the former was brought up on a telegraph cable from more than 1,100 fathoms, and Dr. Carpenter obtained a mollusk, generally found in shallow water, from not much less than 15,000 feet. Even at depths as low as Mount Everest is high, living creatures have been obtained, high, living creatures have been obtained, but they are comparatively low in organ-ization. Still, fishes have been captured at the lowest depths, in which cases they are often blind. Even where they have eyes, often blind. Even where they have eyes, those in that region of eternal night would be useless, if they were not able to turn on the light at will by being provided with phosphorescent organs. It is, however, unusual to find a shark so deep as nearly a couple of thousand feet from the surface. Their teeth have, indeed, been dredged up from profound depths, imbedded in nodules of manganese oxide, but these have drong of manganese oxide, but these have dropped from the jaws of fishes which have lived and died in the upper waters and settled quietly down to the bottom.

On the Right Road.

The Parson-"What do you suppose will become of you when you grow up if you never go to Sunday school?"

The Kid-"Don't yer worry bout boss. I'm going ter be a politician."

His Idea.

From Puck Teacher - "What do you mean by a Pupil-"A blow in the solar plexus."

The Lone Yule-Tide. From Harper's Weekly. Where spend ye the eve of the Holy One's birth, Oh, child who hast wandered away from my hearth? The joy of the Christmas-tide fills all the earth— Where pass ye the Yule of the year?

There stands a jone fir in the field of the dead, Bedecked with frost timed, beside thy white bed; For candles, the glint of the stars overhead— But still is thy chamber and drear. one of you stars could but guide me id follow its beams to the uttermost sea

O mother of Christ, by the love that ye bore The Bethlehem babe, by the Christ ye adore, Oh, find ye my motherless child. I implore, And give her thy love's Christmas cheer.

AND GLADNESS

Christmas Will Be a Great Occasion at the White House.

WARM WELCOME FOR SANTA CLAUS

How the Day Was Celebrated in Past Administrations.

STRIKING CONTRASTS

Written for The Evening Star. When Santa Claus climbs down the big. wide chimneys of the White House on Christmas eve night to abundantly fill the stockings of the Roosevelt children he will have to take with him a large supply of those things that will delight the hearts of the youngsters of the White House. It will not be that Santa Claus will deal so much more generously with the children of the President's family than with other little ones to cause him to be so heavily loaded when he travels silently down the big chimneys, but because there are a number of children to please. They are expectant and happy children, too, and look forward to Santa Claus' coming with all the eagerness that is custom-

ary with little ones. This will be the merriest Christmas the White House has known for five years. For four Christmases preceding this one there have been no childish voices to echo and re-echo through the immense rooms of the home of the chief executive of the land. President and Mrs. McKinley, as everybody knows, had no children, and their Christmases were spent very much like any other days of the year. Yet in the big heart of the dead President there was love and kindness for every child in the land. Although without children himself, President McKinley thought often during the holidays of the joy and happiness that reigns in nearly all homes. At the same time the heart of the President went out with tender sympathy to those little ones whose circumstances were such that their Christmases were not all that should be, and he contributed from his own pocket to aid in carrying the sunshine of the day mong the poor and poverty-stricken of Washington.

President and Mrs. McKinley spent four Christmases in the White House, but none of these was celebrated in any manner that resembled the commemoration of the day in homes where there were young hearts and hopeful minds. The custom of the President and his wife was to remain at the White House during Christmas day, with the exception of going to church in the morning and possibly taking a ride in the afternoon before dinner. Sometimes there were no invited guests with them for dinner, as the 1 resident realized that most of his friends preferred spending the day in their own homes and with their own families. The Christmas table was always well provided with good things to eat. The centerpiece was invariably a fine turkey contributed by Horace Voce of Rhode Island. In contrast with this silent and lonely observance will be the happy, frolicsome celebration of the young people of President Roosevelt's family. Joyous to the greatest degree will be the way the Roosevelt girls and boys will celebrate the

A Welcome for Santa Claus.

Three and possibly four of the children will hang up their stockings in traditional fashion for Santa Claus to fill. And on Christmas day there will be a distribution of gifts in the library. Last Christmas President Roosevelt was the central figure at the Christmas tree given in the Cove school house at Oyster Bay. The children of that place will long remember velt. He did not assume the make-up of Santa Claus, but he did present each toy on the tree with appropriate remarks. Of course, the Roosevelt children will invite a number of their friends in the city and out-

side to be their guests on Christmas day.

The schools of Washington will all give a recess of ten days during the holiday sea-son, and the children of the White House will have plenty of time to play over the beautiful grounds and over the big building with their little guests who visit them. No stop is put to the liveliness and romping disposition of the children of the White House. They run over the grounds and through the building much in the same way have always done in their Oyster Bay home. Just a few days ago, when the President's waiting room was thronged with visitors waiting to see him, there was a noise in the old attic overhead that resembled the tramp of two or three horses, and those who did not think of the chil-dren were at loss to know the cause of the noise. They soon found that it was the children at play in the attic. The six Roosevelt children are Miss Alice, who will make her debut in Washington society in January: Theodore, the fourteen-year-old son of the President; Kermit, twelve years old; Ethel, Archibald and Quentin latter is the baby, but Archibald, Ethel and Kermit are also determined to hang up their stockings. Archibald is about seven years old, and has not yet formed an expert knowledge of Santa Claus. The other two children next to him in age declare that Santa Claus shall not pass them by without proper recognition.

The Cleveland Children. The Christmases of the Clevelands were typical of the day in most American homes. The stillness and quiet that prevailed in the childless home of the McKinleys was different to the times when Ruth, Esther and Marion made the house resound with childish laughter and the unrestrained glee and joy of Christmas times. Marion was too young to know much about these times, but Ruth and Esther will never forget the happy Christmas days that marked their ence in the White House. Ruth especially, bright little tot that she was, and old enough to know the significance of Christmas and to look forward with expectancy to the coming night when Santa Claus would climb down the chimneys, remembers those days and talks about them now. Grover Cleveland was supposed to be too dignified to take part in the simple de-lights and frolics of the occasion, but there exists a good deal today that is idle osition as to Mr. Cleveland, and Ruth could tell of many an hour when her fathe lent his consent and smiles to her pranks and to her plays. She remembers the pret-ty nickel-plated tricycle that he selected and bought for her himself. He helped teach her to ride it and laughed at her first failures. When she had mastered it and furiously rode up and down the hallway of the private part of the Executive Mansion he did not frown about the noise, but enhe did not frown about the noise, but en-couraged her to get all she could in the way of happiness out of her baby life. These are traditions at the White House and are talked of among the old attendants when they want to mention in a most con-fidential manner the private life of the Clevelands.

Express wagons made many trips to the White House during the Christmases spent there by the McKinleys, but the old officials say that in the last Cleveland administration express wagon followed wagon in the Christmas season. Fathers and moththe Christmas season. Fathers and mothers all over the land thought kindly of the little ones of President and Mrs. Cleveland, and sent unstintedly of toys and handsome presents designed to please the children. This greatly pleased Mrs. Cleveland, and she made it a rule to have the presents placed in order in the library. They were piled high upon the limbs of big Christmas trees and displayed all over the room. Then on Christmas day the children were shown the rare spectacle. All the White House attendants, together with the policemen in the grounds were with the policemen in the grounds, were brought in to look over the tree.

brought in to look over the tree.

For years a story was circulated that little Ruth was deaf and dumb, but if those who believed this story could have been present on an occasion of this kind they would have realized their mistake. She was as bright a child as ever lived in the big white building, and was full of appreciation of the lovely and artistic. The story of her alleged afflictions arose from her peculiarity in frequently not answering questions at the time they were asked her. She was a great friend of the policemen who patrolled the grounds, and was inquisitive to a high degree. Often, however, they would find her in deep meditation, either playing with mud pies or lying face downward on a bench, making figures and letters in the sand. If they asked her questions then it was possible that she would give no answer, no matter how per-

sistent they proved to be. Half an hour later she would probably go to the person and answer the question, having rememinate trate below the surface of the little cour teous conventions we shall find that consideration for the feelings of others under bered everything said to her.

Hundreds of Toys. In addition to the Christmas tree the children received toys from Santa Claus. These and whatever Mrs. Cleveland cared to give them was all that they had to break and scatter around. Hundreds of other toys were carefully packed away, and when next Christmas came around Mrs. Cleveland sent them, as new in looks as when received a year before, to the chlidren's hospitals and other institutions in Washington, gladdening many little hearts by her thoughtfulness.

There was nothing exclusive either in

the Christmas tree or the amusements of the Cleveland children. Often some of the children of humble men of the White House force called to look at the tree. Ruth and Esther romped with them and Mrs. Cleve-land sanctioned their friendliness to these little callers. The very Christmas Ruth received her nickel-plated tricycle from her father one of her visitors was the little daughter of an officer still at the White House. Ruth invited her visitor to try the tricycle. The little visitor in her play ran over Ruth with the machine, but Ruth was game. She cried little and said that her little friend accidentally ran over her. The Roosevelt children will receive many

presents, and already express wagons are taking many things to the White House to

go on the Christmas tree. Within the recollection of the oldest employes of the White House there wer Christmas trees up to the time of the Harrison administration. President Johnson had a number of grandchildren, but his children were all too old for such juvenile festivities as Christmas trees.

The Grant children were also beyond the age when Christmas trees are enjoyable.

Generous Giving.

The Christmases of the Hayes and of the Harrisons were the most ideal of any, so far as the attaches and employes of the White House were concerned. The feature of the Christmases of the White House under President and Mrs. Hayes was the distribution of presents for all the persons employed around the building. About a month before each Christmas Mrs. Hayes always sent Col. W. H. Crook, the disbursing officer of the White House, and Major Webb Hayes, then a young man, to visit the stores of Washington to select presents for every one in the White House, from the highest official to the lowest and most hum-ble servant. Each present would bear a card upon which was written the name of the person for whom it was intended. On Christmas morning all of the presents would be placed in the hallway of the private part of the White House. Then President and Mrs. Hayes would go into the big, roomy library and send for the members of the country was chewing pretty darkly. Frank was acting as his own lookout, and he gave of the country was chewing pretty darkly. Frank was acting as his own lookout, and he gave of the country was chewing pretty darkly. bers of the family and employes. The at Sam's moves. Every time Arnold would President himself took a most lively interest in the events that followed. It was crane his neck over the layout and look the duty of Scott Hayes and Fannie Hayes, then children, to play the part of Santa Claus, One of them would go into the hallway and carry a present to President Hayes, who would read the name of the person for whom it was intended, and direct its presentation. Upon the retire-ment of this child the other would enter with a present, and so the ceremony con-tinued until a present had been given to each person. One of the first presents that Col. Crook received was a silver pitcher. He still retains it as a valuable souvenir of the Hayes administration. President and Mrs. Harrison also dis-tributed presents to all of the White House employes, but they did it by a Christmas tree. With the exception of "Baby" McKee there were no children in the Harrison family, and so the Christmas trees were given especially for the benefit of the employes. This tree was always generously filled and every person was re-membered. President Harrison, with that quiet dignity that always characterized him, took a deep interest in the annual

Christmas tree.

It was the custom of President McKinley to always give a large turkey on Christmas eve to each married employe of the White House, but there were never any presents for any of the single men.

Lincoln's Thoughtfulness. Col. Crook well remembers the last Christmas of Lincoln in the White House.

Of that time he said: While thousands were celebrating with joyous hearts the birth of the Savior of bore each other. Mankind, Abraham Lincoln had a sad heart. The boom of the cannon and the groans of the dying were heard on every hand. Robert, his eldest son, was at the front on the staff of General Grant; Willie had passed to the great beyond, and Taddle, idol of his father's heart, was the only

child to say, 'Merry Christmas, papa!'
"The soldiers in the hospitals around Washington were not forgotten. Though he remembered with sorrow unspeakable that there was a vacant chair by his own fireside, yet amidst all his great responsibility and grief he did not forget a kindly greeting to the men who had left their homes, their wives and their children to sacrifice themselves upon the altar of their country's weal. A special messenger was dispatched to the place of suffering and pain to deliver from the ever-thoughtful and considerate President a kindly word to cheer the weary hearts of those whom the hard fortunes of war had condemned to languish in the prison house of illness on an anniversary which ought to bring joy to the hearts of

FIRES CAUSED BY NAILS. Particularly Guarded Against Firms That Handle Cotton.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "Speaking of insurance matters," said a man, "I suppose the plain, old-fashioned nail has caused more fires in the big establishments where machinery is used in many and complicated ways than any other little thing in existence. The only

thing needed is for it to come in contact with some other hard material with suf-ficient force to cause a spark and heat gen-of years, he does not anticipate any diffiwith some other hard material with suferation. Nails have really produced a heavy per cent of the cotton fires of the country. During recent years, on account of steps taken by the owners and conductors of the larger cotton and byproduct plants at the instance of insurance men, the nail has not been such a prolific producer of fires.

"A way has been found, for instance, in cotton gins, cotton mills and in plants where cotton seed are put through manufacturing processes of extracting nails and other weighty substances that may find lodgment in these inflammable prod-ucts. Gravity is the natural force used. Nalls and rocks and materials of this kind are heavier than cotton and its byproducts, and they have a tendency to force their way to the bottom of the heap. By allowing these products to pass over a rolling belt arrangement these heavier ma-terials filter toward the bottom and are finally extracted, so that when the cotto or the cotton seed passes through the grind in the various manufacturing process there is but little danger from fire so far as these things are concerned."

Not Man's Invention. From the Chicago Record-Herald.

According to a dispatch from Paris an American has invented what he calls a spectograph, which "enables a person using a telphone to see his interlocutor and the latter's surroundings." This is not an invention of man; it is an invention of the devil. One of the main uses of the telephone is to blind the eyes, not aid them The man of affairs who telephones the press of business at the office, and regrets his inability to meet the loved ones at home at the customary hour, needs no spectograph to reveal his presence at the festal board at the restaurant, or to exhibit him in the "press of business" he has appointed for himself. As a wrecker of happy homes we may predict a brilliant career for the spectograph if ever it is brought into use. But such an invention will not be permitted to live. There is misery enough already in the world with-out the assistance of the spectograph. No man of delicacy and prudence wishes his wife to see everything.

"By Jabers!"

From the Academy. An expression which English writers fre-

quently put into the mouths of their Irish peasants is "By jabers!" I have lived the greater part of my life in Ireland, both in the north and south, but I have never heard it. "Bedad!" and "Begor!" are quite com-

sideration for the feelings of others underlies all. Do not try to make your gift look as though it cost more than you paid for it. Aside from the paitry spirit of such giving it is a delusion and a snare, for next year your offering must seem to be as fine as the one of this season, or you may appear to have been less anxious to please friend. The best gifts are those which put no tax upon material resources, but triffes of which the recipients may make frequent use, and so keep the giver in mind. Take the time to write a few words of loving or cordial greeting on the cards that accompany your gifts. Without that evidence of individual, personal thought the offering of even the finest present appears somewhat graceless and perfunctory. A message on a card is better than a note, because more informal, and one should not receive the card in the card one should not because more informal, and one should not receive the cards. informal, and one should not seem to make much of a gift. Having your presents daintily wrapped is not less a matter of courtesy. Let their outward appearance commend them. Leave them or send them to their destination the day before Christmas-unless you can insure their reception early in the day. A tardy gift appears like an afterthought.

## A WOMAN'S VOICE.

Christmas Eve Incident in a Cripple

Creek Cambring House. "One Christmas eve, during the lively and caloric days of Cripple Creek, I heard a bit of music that, beautiful in itself, yet sounded so strange and incongruous amid the surroundings whence it proceeded that I have never forgotten it," remarked a Colorado mining man to a group in one of the Capitol committee rooms the other afternoon. "In order to tell the story I've got to confess that I was one of a crowd standing around watching the game in a faro bank when the incident occurred. I can only condone my situation on the Christmas eve by stating that there wasn't much holiday doings besides fare bank and rum in Cripple Creek at that time. Every man in camp was his own Santa Claus, and if he wanted any extra Christmas amusement he had to go after it. The faro banks and the rum mills were about the only plants that, being lighted up, were any sort of a Yuletide air. We were watching 'Nogales Sam' Arnold whacking Frank Spedson's fare bank. Arnold was an Arizona gambler who had been having a lot of luck a-bucking the Crippie Creek banks for some weeks, and he was about \$4,000 ahead of Spedson's game on this Christmas eve. He was win-

over the situation suspiciously, and this sort of thing finally got on Arnold's nerves.

"Which I'm bound to but in by remarking," said Arnold at length, 'that if this yere's what you might call a old wo man's game o' draw n' straws fr a ging-ham sunbonnet, then I cash in right yere at this juncture and pass my seat on to the next ombrey that s lookin' fr that kind o' toyin'.'
"That got Spedson going, and the two

men had a growl for about a minute that, in the nature of things in and around Cripple Creek, could have had but one wind-up. Those of us who were standing around had already framed up a bee-line for the exit by the time Spedson and Arnold reached the point where they went for their guns, and just when we expected to hear the bombarding we heard something very different. It was a woman next door, in Con Shepherd's undertaking plant, singing 'An-gels Ever Bright and Fair.' They were holding services in there over Jim Purroy, who had been shot up the night before by one of the night marshals for resisting ar-rest, and it was Jim's wife who was doing the singing. She was a handsome, very violent woman, whom they called 'Brooklyn Flora, and it was said that she had been a choir singer or something like that back east. She had a beautiful voice, anyhow, that sounded as if it had been cultivated but she never sang anything so weird and strange, and yet so pat and timely, as that song she voiced over Jim's dead body in the undertaking outfit next door to Frank Spedson's fare bank just at the minute when Arnold and Spedson were going to

"The shooting didn't come off. The dealer told me afterward that he'd dropped under the table when both of 'em had brought out their weapons, but that when the first notes from the throat of the girl next door came percolating through the thin wood partition they just perked up their ears and shoved their guns back where they belonged, and the dealer, seeing that it was all off, climbed back into his seat. He found Spedson and Arnold looking away from each other, each leaning an elbow on the fare table and each with his head in his hand, listening. The girl's voice broke into a sob before she had finished the song, and when that happened Spedson got up and quietly said

'Cash in, Arnold. No more tonight. Box turned.'

Canadian War Horses.

From the Toronto Mail and Empire. Mr. Walter Harland Smith, the Toronto horseman, has returned to the city from Ottawa, where he secured from the government the contract to purchase the mounts for the Canadian Yeomanry. As a result of the experience of Col. Dent, who has been purchasing remounts for the British army in Canada for more than a year, only Ontario-bred animals will be accepted by Mr. Smith. He confirmed the statement that of the horses that have already been shipped to South Africa 25 per cent of the western animals were lost, while only 4 per cent of the Ontario horses failed to make the journey. Despite the fact that between 12,000 and 15,000 horses have been culty in getting another 600. In fact, he expects to have the majority of them in three weeks, and all the animals will be in Ottawa before the end of the month. With reference to the prices, Mr. Smith said the policy of Col. Dent would be followed, which was to buy each horse according to its individual merits. Of course, he would fix a maximum figure, but he did not care to state what it would be, as every farmer in the country would demand that amount for his horse.

Sensible Advice.

From the Chicago News. Young Lady-"A friend of mine is engaged to a man, and now he refuses to marry her. What would you advise her to Old Lawyer—"Is the man wealthy?"
Young Lady—"No. He hasn't a dollar."
Old Lawyer—"Then I'd advise her to
write him a nice letter of thanks."

What Rank Imposes. From the Chicago Tribune.

"Mamma," said the petted helress, "why this ceaseless and wearying round of gay-

eties? Aren't we r'ch enough now to afford to be comfortable?"

"No, dear," replied mamma. "We are so rich that we can't afford to be comfortable.



Where Knife Falled.

mon, but not "By jabers!" It would be advisable for English writers to leave the Irish dialect severely alone, for they are sure to come to grief when they try to represent it. They generally produce an impossible jargon, built after the conventional stage pattern.

Amos Crocker of Worcester writes: "A mine Crocker of Worcester writes: "A min